

**C.A.S.A.**  
**of San Bernardino County**



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**CASA Program History**

- C.A.S.A. = Court Appointed Special Advocates
- Started by a judge in Seattle, WA in 1976
- Mission is to Recruit, Screen, Train and Supervise volunteers to work with vulnerable foster children
- Started in San Bernardino County in 1984
- Over 1,000 CASA/Gal programs in the U.S.
- CASA collaborates with other agencies in the community

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**What does a CASA volunteer do?**

- Connect
- Facilitate
- Advocate
- Collaborate
- Monitor
- Maintain Confidentiality
- Adhere to the regulations of the CASA program



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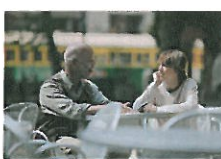
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### CASA Volunteers:

- Must pass a rigorous screening process
- Complete 30 hours of training
- Be sworn-in by the court
- Spend about 10-17 hours a month with their youth
- Come from a variety of professional, educational, and personal backgrounds




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### Volunteer Training Includes:

- Program Rules and Regulations
- Juvenile Dependency and Delinquency Court Process
- Child Welfare System
- Child/Youth Development
- Diversity and Cultural Awareness
- Family Search and Engagement
- Understanding Families
- Youth Culture
- Writing Court Reports



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### What does a CASA Volunteer *not* do?

- Take the child to his/her home or work
- Keep the child overnight
- Introduce them to their family or friends






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### The CASA Volunteer's Relationship with the Child:

- Know the child well enough to make appropriate recommendations to the court
- Establish and maintain proper boundaries
- Be a consistent and stable presence in their life
- Be cognizant of the confidentiality of the relationship while at the same time letting the child know that you are a mandated reporter.
- A temporary intervention designed to help establish long term connections and permanency




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### Educational Advocacy

Educational Advocates:

- Spend about 1-4 hours a month with the child
- Participate in his/her individual educational plans and meetings at school
- Must complete 30 hours of core CASA training and are sworn in by the judge/commissioner
  - Of the 30 hours, 3 hours are devoted exclusively for Educational Advocacy.




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### CASA of San Bernardino Staff:

**Kara Hunter**, Executive Director

**Magdaline Harris**, Community Outreach Coordinator

**Trisha Hendricksen**, Program Manager  
Advocate Supervisors:

**Valerie Valadez, Elizabeth Palafox,**  
**Marco Pulido, SynToia Arline**

**Peggy Tahramanis**

**Kacie Phillips** – Community Outreach Coordinator




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## Thank you!

If you or someone you know,  
are interested in learning more about the  
CASA of San Bernardino County Program, please contact us:  
909.881.6760 or come by:  
437 N. Riverside Ave., Suite 10 Rialto CA 92376  
P.O. Box 519 Rialto, CA 92377  
[www.casaofsb.org](http://www.casaofsb.org)

Information Sessions are once a month, please call our office for  
the date and location of the next one!




**If not you, who?**

**If not together, how?**

**If not now, when?**

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## IT TAKES ONE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...VOLUNTEER



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